

MUTANTS! MAYHEM! MISTLETOE!

A MERRY XMAS FROM D.R. & QUINCH

PROG 450
28 DEC 85

2000 AD
FEATURING JUDGE DREDD

24p
EARTH MONEY

IN ORBIT
EVERY MONDAY

LIKE,
YULETIDE
GREETINGS,
MAN!

S'RIGHT.

STUFFING
DECEASED
BIRDS,
FOR THE
USE OF

NERVE CENTRE

BORAG THUNGG, EARTHLETS,

Welcome to the galaxy's greatest comic – my Christmas present to a grateful cosmos! Last week I promised you a zarjaz wraparound cover and a circuit-shattering 14-page *Judge Dredd* extravaganza – and here they are! However, although I also promised a selection of *D.R. & Quinch's* favourite Xmas Carols, this feature will not now be putting in an appearance. When I saw how tasteless and deeply offensive it was, I condemned it as unfit for Terran consumption, and sent it straight to the shredders. To make up for this disappointment, I suggest you look at my Next Prog feature at the back of this issue...your New Year's present!

SPLUNDIG VUR THRIGG!

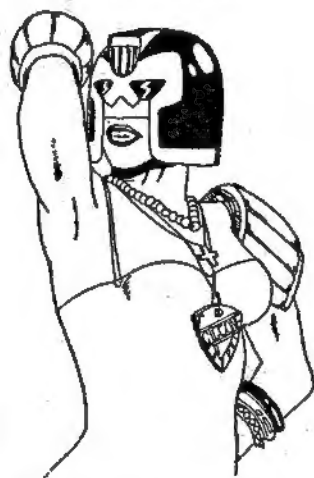
THARG

JUDGE THARG

Drawn by Earthlet L.J. Williams.
Oswestry. £10 Winner.



JUDGE MADONNA



Drawn by Earthlet Gary Stainsby,
Stourbridge. £10 Winner.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, CREEPI

Dear Tharg,

I have been wondering whether Christmas Day in Mega-City One is peaceful, and whether the judges all take the day off. Is this the one day of the year when no crimes are committed? From optimistic Earthlet Howard Webb, Leeds. £5 Winner.

The answer to your question can be found in the pages of the Terran newspaper *The Daily Star*, issue dated 21 December 1985 (Earth time).

THE FIRST MALAYSIAN K.T.T...?

Borag Thungg, Tharg,

I've been a reader of 2000 AD since Prog 1, and in that time I've read your zarjaz comic in 3 different countries: Malaysia, Singapore and Australia. I'm not complaining about the tremendous efforts I've taken to maintain my collection, because I can't boast of a 100% record – I've missed 11 progs in between jetting around. All the same, it's quite an accomplishment, so if you wish to honour me with a Krill Tro Thargo, I'll accept it...together with a fabulous and highly desirable laser scan of *Halo Jones*! Furthermore, history will be written, as I'll be the first in Malaysia to be honoured thus.

From modest Earthlet David Teh, Selangor, West Malaysia. £5 Winner.

I would have awarded you a K.T.T., but not having a complete collection of progs is simply not zarjaz enough. However, in recognition of your thrill-powered efforts, I will program in next week's prog – especially for you – *The Ballad of Halo Jones Book 3*!

THE THREE diGRIZ!

Greetings, Tharg,

I recently borrowed two books from the library, "The Stainless Steel Rat" and "The Stainless Steel Rat For President". This poses a question: which came first, the book or the comic strip? I suspect it's the latter, although, as Slippery Jim diGriz himself would doubtless agree, things are very rarely how they seem.

From slippery Earthlet Alix Miller, Reading (what else?). £5 Winner.

My series "The Stainless Steel Rat" (Progs 140-151), "The Stainless Steel Rat Saves The World" (Progs 166-177) and "The Stainless Steel Rat For President" (Progs 393-404) were all adapted from the books by Earthlet Harry Harrison.

NOW WASH YOUR HANDS...

Dear Tharg,

My son thoroughly enjoys 2000 AD and has bought it regularly for about two years. The reason I'm writing to you is that, having read the comic, his hands are so inky that there are black fingerprints all over the house. Can The Mighty One do anything about this to stop the rows?

From worried Earthlet Mrs Laura Wright, North Shields. £5 Winner.

Several solutions spring to mind: command him to wear gloves; or to read his progs in the bath; or to use his feet to turn the pages. Alternatively, perhaps *you* could turn the pages for him.

VOTE HERE!

Each week Tharg displays your drawings and letters on his Nerve Centre. There are big cash prizes for every entry published, so write to him now! The address is: THARG'S NERVE CENTRE, COMMAND MODULE 2018, KING'S REACH TOWER, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON SE1 9LS.

List your three favourite stories
IN THIS PROG on the coupon and
enclose it with your entry.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

I Dislike:.....

My Age Is..... 450

Strontium Dog

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT: ROBOT
ALAN GRANT
ART: ROBOT
C. EZQUERRA
LETTERING: ROBOT
KID ROBSON
COMPU-73E



MUTANT BOUNTYHUNTER JOHNNY ALPHA HAS BEEN SENT BACK TO THE VIKING AGE TO TRACK DOWN MAX BUBBA AND HIS MUTIE GANG — WHOSE PRESENCE IN THE PAST IS CAUSING TIME DISTORTIONS THAT MIGHT WIPE OUT ALL OF MAN'S HISTORY!

NOW JOHNNY, WITH WULF STERNHAMMER AND HIS NORSE WARRIORS, SETS SAIL TO FIND BUBBA —

BEYOND THE FJORD THE DRAGONBREATH FINDS A FOLLOWING WIND, AND FOR TWO DAYS MAKES GOOD SPEED NORTH —



WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?



YOU DON'T KNOW? THE GIANT OF THE SEA — THE WHALE.

BEAUTIFUL BEAST. PITY MAN'S GOING TO KILL 'EM ALL BY THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY...



IF I DO MY JOB RIGHT, THAT IS!

NIGHT, AND EERIE LIGHTS DANCE ACROSS THE HORIZON —

BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN IT SO RED — SO ANGRY!

SURELY IT MEANS THERE IS TROUBLE AHEAD!

THE YOUNG MUTANT SENSES SOMETHING, TOO — A STRANGE ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR...

CAN'T BE NORMAL! GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TIME DISTORTIONS. IT'S GETTING STRONGER, TOO!

THE BOREALIS!

WE CALL IT THOR'S FIRE...

DAWN ON THE THIRD DAY —

WE'LL SEEK INFORMATION FROM THE FARMSTEAD IN THE FJORD. WE KNOW THEM — HAKKEN THE BERSERKER STOLE HIS WIFE THERE!

IF I'D KNOWN WE WERE COMING HERE, I'D HAVE BROUGHT HER BACK, TOO!

HH-WOOOOOOOO







NEXT PROG. **TIMBER-WULF!**

Slaire



SLAIRE AIMED
BLOOD-PROW
AT THE ROOF...

SIVA!
SIVA!

SCRIPT:
PATT MULLIGAN
ART:
DAVID PUGH
LETTERING:
STEVE POTTER

...CAUSING IT TO CAVE IN.



IT'S OEAHOO!

IT'S ALL RIGHT. SHE'S A GOOD CYTHON. SHE'S ON OUR SIDE.



KNA! HOATAHE NOCO!



WE HEADED DEEPER INTO THE TOMB...

UKKO, I WANT YOU TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE OUT FOR TRAPS... SO YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT TREASURE THIS TIME.

NO TREASURE?

I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING DISTRACTED. UNDERSTOOD?

IF YOU SAY SO.

THE GIRL CAME WITH US... SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE A NAME, SO WE CALLED HER 'GIYA'...

COME ON, GIYA.

WE REACHED A VAST
PROCESSIONAL
AVENUE...

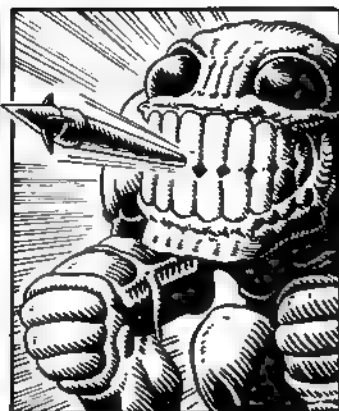
OFFERINGS
TO OUR
GODS.

DIAMONDS...!
RUBIES...!
EMERALDS...!









CALGACUS!

I... I SAID
SHE'D BETRAY US!

I
THOUGHT
THE TRAPS
WERE
SWITCHED
OFF...



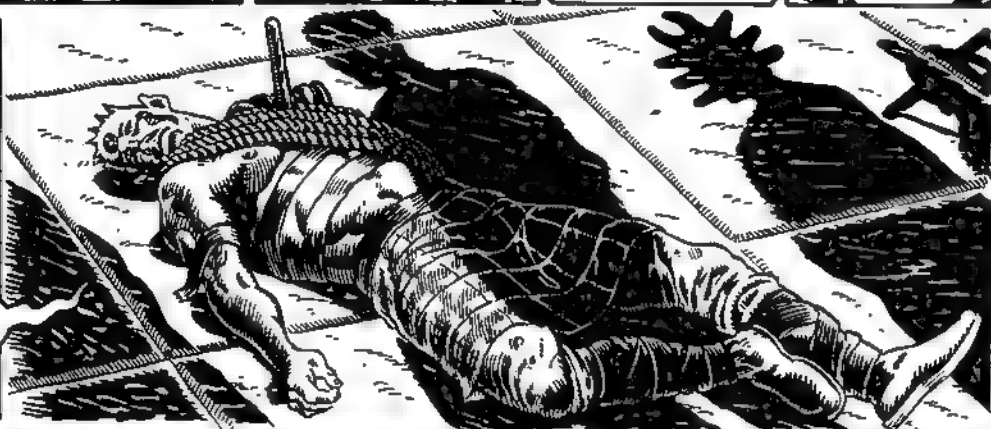
... READY
FOR
GRIMNISMAI
TO COME
DOWN THE
PROCESSIONAL
AVENUE!



YOU
LYING...



CYTHIRAN—!



HE'S DEAD.



PRESSURE PLATE
JOB. PROBABLY A
BELLOW'S UNDERNEATH
OPERATING THE DART-
THROWER. CLEVER
STUFF.



YOU WERE
A LITTLE LATE
DISCOVERING
IT.



BUT
THAT
MEANS...

... THE
NEXT SLAB
WE STEP
ON COULD
TRIGGER
ANOTHER
TRAP!

Next: THE DREAMS
OF GRIMNISMAI!

FEATHERED FREAK PART 4

Game: Pat Mills. Art: Garry Leach.

LAST WEEK

YOUR WARP RATING:

(From Part Three)

THE GIRL

If YOU chose...

- A) To leave the girl to the Orgots' tender mercies and head off into the tomb... You walk warily down the long, dark passageway. The damp air is heavy with the smell of death and decay. A hand clutches yours for reassurance. Thinking it's Nest's, you give it a squeeze. When you realise it's Ukko's, you stop and give him a clout.

Then, up ahead, in the dim light of the torch you see... an enormous flightless bird—its head alone is bigger than a fully grown horse! Its cruel hooked beak turns in your direction and it starts regurgitating food pellets, like an owl.....so it can make room for you! It attacks. This is one of several Wandering Monsters you will be meeting. It won't fight you to the death, but will be driven off if you reduce its warp rating to 9 or less. Deduct the time indicated from your clock. Note: You only collect a monster's warp rating when you kill it. When you merely drive it off, as in this case, you do not collect its warp rating.

FEATHERED FIEND'S WARP RATING : 15

TIME TAKEN : 10 MINUTES

Then, hearing anguished screams from the girl, you change your mind and go back to rescue her. Go to Q below.

- B) You pulled the girl to safety, then asked Myrddin to destroy the advancing Orgots with magic. Muttering irritably about people taking the easy way out, Myrddin directs lightning bolts at the roof, bringing it down on the Orgots.

You must then pay the penalty for using magic—*time*. Deduct the time indicated from your clock. Now you must deal with the problems arising THIS WEEK.

TIME PENALTY: 30 minutes

- C) You pull the girl to safety, then use your keyser sword's mystical power to bring the roof down on the Orgots. This was correct—see the story. Now you must deal with the problems arising THIS WEEK.

LATECOMERS

If you missed the early parts of the game, you can still join in. Turn to the rules summary page, which appears after this prog's *Judge Dredd* story.



THIS WEEK

Regardless of how much time you lost as a result of the choices you made last week, your adventures this week took ten minutes. **Deduct ten minutes from your clock.** You must also lose 8 WARP POINTS because Calgacus was killed and the loss of this warrior will reduce your group's fighting strength.

TREASURE

One of the objects of the game is to collect treasure. Although you told Utko not to, that isn't going to stop him! He's already secretly pocketed treasure worth 10 TP (Treasure Points). Make a note of it in the box at the end.

WHICH WAY?

At the end of the episode you risk stepping on a trap. You are standing on the square marked 'T'. Behind you is the great temple door and the corridor to the Orgots' guard room.

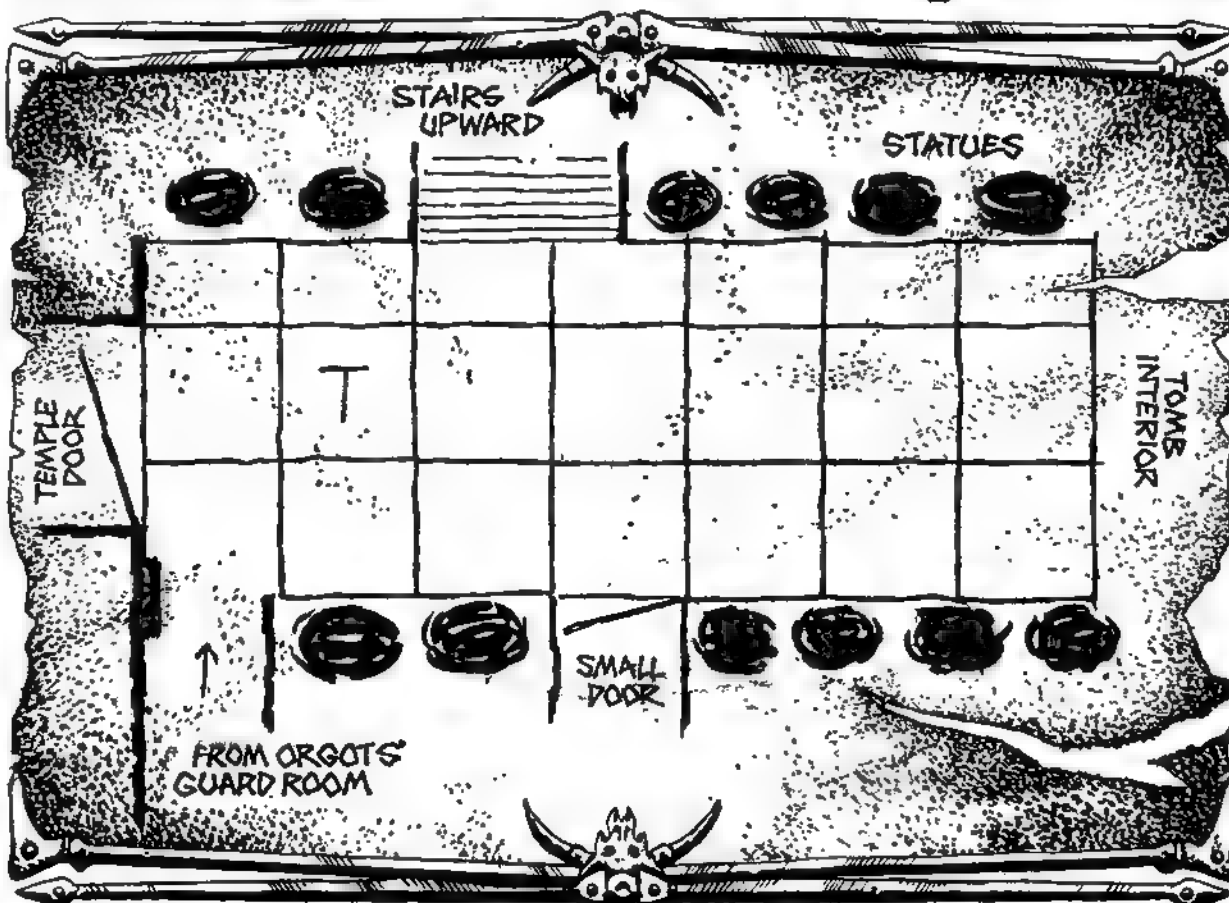
Which way *ahead* should you go? Up the stairs on your left? Through the small door on your right? Or straight on into the tomb interior? If you walk close to the walls, you can also pick up treasure lying at the statues' feet (the values will be indicated next week). But there could be traps there, too...

Draw a line on the map from 'T', indicating which route you are taking and which squares you have crossed to do this. You can use any route you like to avoid possible trap squares.

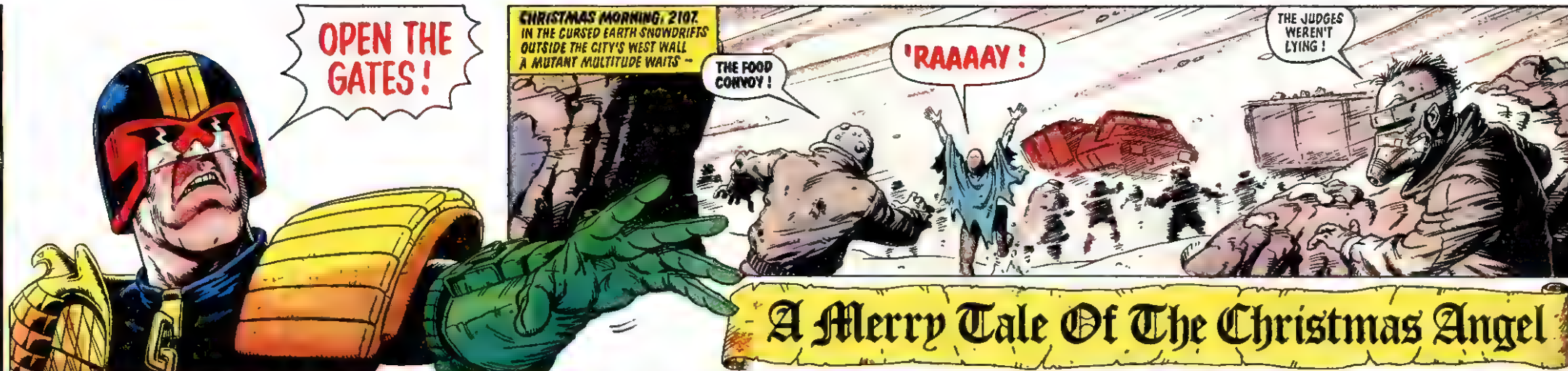
Find out next week if your route was a safe one and make a note of your final score in the box below.

YOUR FINAL WARP RATING:

TREASURE:



NEXT PROG: THE TRAP IS SPRUNG... ARE YOU IN IT?



AND IN APARTMENT 1250, JOSHUA JEBBS, THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT PENAL REHAB PROGRAMME TAKES A BOLD STEP -

THIS IS THE PRISONER.

MEAN MACHINE ANGEL. I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MR AND MRS PUDDOCK.

DUH... A RIGHT BIG HOWDY, FOLKS.

DEAR ME, HE DOES LOOK RATHER ROUGH. ARE YOU SURE HE'S SAFE?

SAFE AS HOUSES!

HE'S BEEN TOTALLY LOBOTOMISED. NOT AN OUNCE OF AGGRESSION LEFT. LOOK, I CAN SWITCH HIM RIGHT UP TO 4.

COME ON, MEAN! BUTT ME! PLANT IT RIGHT THERE!

DUH... NO! HEADBUTTS AIN'T NICE, MR HOOLIHAN!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

OKAY, I'LL LEAVE HIM WITH YOU, PICK HIM UP AT EIGHT. IT'LL DO HIM GOOD TO HAVE A REAL OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS IS A QUIET DAY, EVEN FOR THE JUDGES. TRAFFIC IS LIGHT. CRIME TAKES A HOLIDAY. BY LATE AFTERNOON ARRESTS ARE DOWN 60 PER CENT -

IN THE **DRAMARENA**, "NATIVITY AND A 1/2" BUILDS TOWARDS ITS CLIMAX —

I BRING-A YOU DA GEEFTS!

HEY, JOE! COME-A SEE DIS! DA WISEGUY BRING-A DA GOLD!

NOT-A NOW, MARIA! I'M EATIN' DA SPAGHETTI!

AN' WHADDA YA THINK-A THEES — IT'S A-DA SMELLY STUFF!

MAMA MIA! WHAT'S A MATTER WIT' YOU, WISEGUY? DA BAMBINO NO WANTA SMELLY STUFF!

COO
WELL HOW ABOUT-A THEES. IT'S A BIG-A BOX-A NAPPIES.

IN THE AUDIENCE **ED FLYMO** STEELS HIS NERVE. NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY —

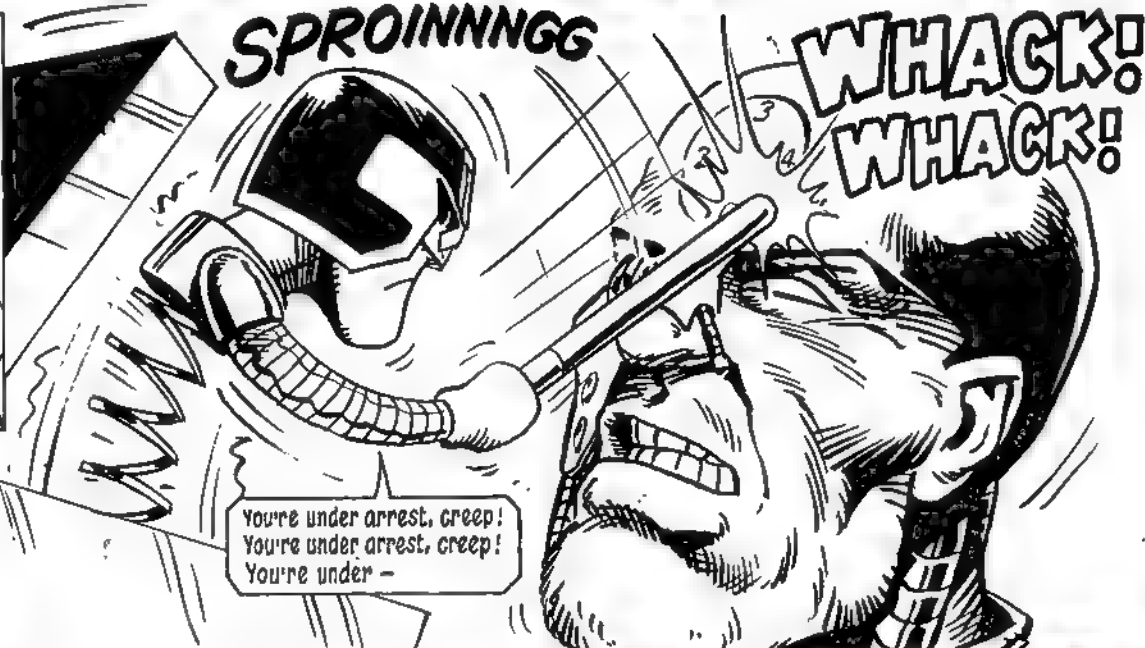
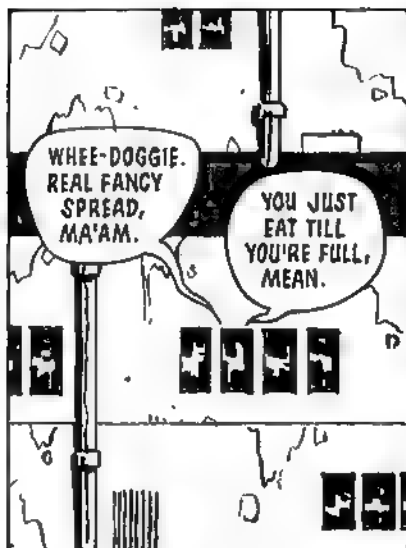
MERRY CHRISTMAS, GREASEBALL!

AAAH!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GUN!







THEY'D TAKEN OUT HIS FRONTAL LOBES, BUT THEY COULD NEVER REMOVE THE HATRED...

...HATRED THAT PERMEATED EVERY FIBRE OF HIS ONCE-DEAD BEING... WAITING FOR THE KEY THAT WOULD UNLOCK IT -

JUDGE DREDD!

BOK!
BOK!
BOK!

BOK!
BOK!
BOK!

MEAN!
BEHAVE YOURSELF
OR I'LL HAVE TO SEND FOR MR HOOLIHAN!

IZZAT SO?

BOK-KA!

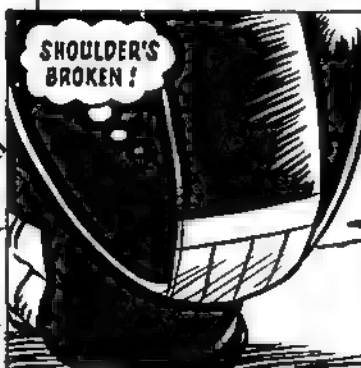
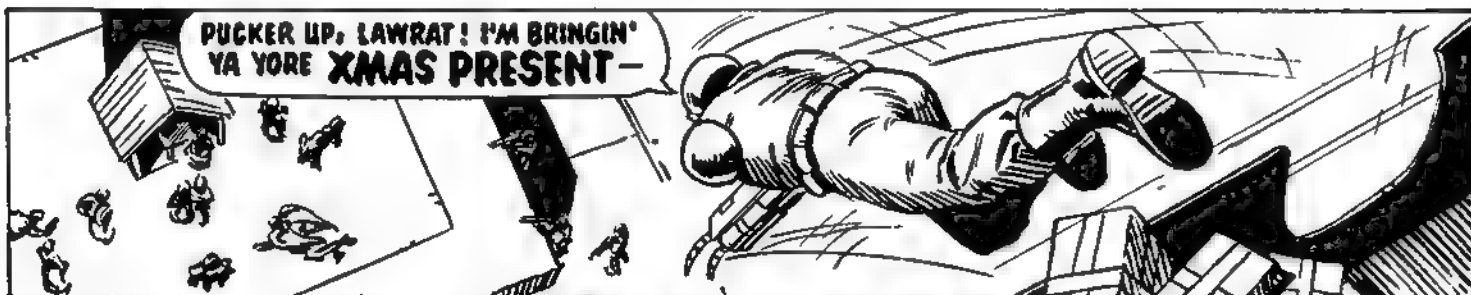
HERE, YOU -

BOK!

CRASH!

THAT DIRTY LOWDOWN YELLOW-BELLIED LAW RAT! I'LL FIND HIM!

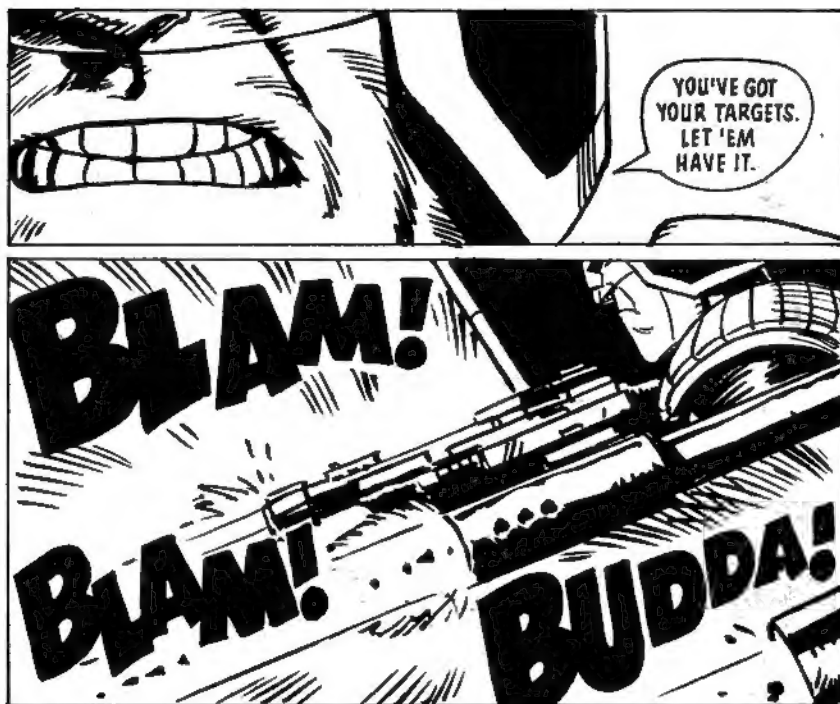












FOR THE JUDGES OF MEGA-CITY ONE THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO MEN. THE LAW MUST BE ADMINISTERED — WITHOUT FAVOUR, WITHOUT MERCY — 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR...

BRING IT IN. WE'LL TRY IT AGAINST THE SOUTH SECTOR MUTIES TOMORROW.

AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

TOMB OF TERROR

LATECOMERS SECTION

To start the game this week, read the rules below.



YOU are Slaine—the Warped Warrior who fights with a deadly leyser sword. YOU are leading a group of adventurers into the Dark God's tomb.

The object of the game is to *gain* warp points by killing the monsters guarding the tomb and, finally, the Dark God himself. Complete your group's warp rating below.

SLAINE & ADVENTURERS: 69

Roll two dice and add
the score to the above:

YOUR GROUP'S
WARP RATING: _____

COMBAT

The rules for fighting the monsters are as follows...

- 1) Roll two dice for your group. Add *ONE* to the total each time you throw. (This is because you're using a leyser sword.)
- 2) Roll two dice for the monster.
- 3) If you have the higher score, you have wounded the monster. Deduct the difference in your scores from the monster's warp rating.
- 4) If the monster has the higher score, he has wounded you. Deduct the difference in your scores from your group's warp rating.
- 5) Continue until the monster (or you) have no points left—e.g. are dead.
- 6) Add the monster's *original* warp rating to your own. This is your 'prize' for experience gained.



COUNTDOWN TO TERROR

You now have less than six hours to find and kill the Dark God. You will need the clock above to keep a record of time passing. The wrong decisions will often cost you extra time. You deduct time by shading in the first available unit on your clock. (As you'll see, your adventure has already taken twenty minutes.)

If you fill in the whole of the clock *before* reaching the Dark God, you have run out of time. Grimnismal has awoken and laid waste to the Earth. Your quest has failed!

MAGIC

You may use magic to help you—where indicated...calling on Myrddin to work a suitable spell. He will do so reluctantly...because every time magic is used it will help the Dark God awaken!

The price for magic, therefore, is *time*. Every spell will cost you between thirty minutes and one hour. You will have to deduct this amount from your clock.

Now read this week's episode of *Slaine*, written by your faithful dwarf, Ukko. Then return to *Tomb Of Terror* part four, the section marked "THIS WEEK".



BETELGEUSIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH
URGENT WARNING DANGER —
DEADLY NEW SPECIES OF THRILL-SUCKER
PLAGUING UNIVERSE —
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HOME WITHOUT



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Please reserve/deliver* 1 thrill-
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NAME.....

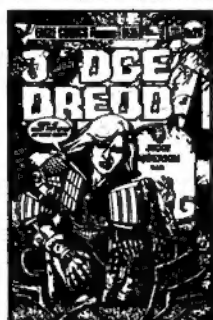
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Signature of Parent/Guardian*

*delete as applicable

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The Ballad Of

HALO JONES

ACE
TRUCKING
C^o

Any space
Any time

NEXT PROG